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CRITICIEM OF THE 1952 SOVIET PLAN FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCE

The following report, presented 14 September 1951 at the session of the Presidium of the Academy of Sciences, USSR, by Academician A. V. Tepchiyev, Chief Scientific Secretary of the Presidium, is a criticism of the 1952 plan for scientific work in the Department of Technical Sciences, Academy of Sciences USSR.

The activity plan for 1952 is divided into 12 large problems; but this grouping is only formal in fine cases, due to insufficient coordination of the activities of department institutions. There is a lag in the development of a number of recent projects. Thus, 41 out of 140 projects of the 1951 plan are behind schedule, and intensive efforts are required to fulfill it.

In the first somiannual period, some institutes performed a considerable amount of work and obtained significant results. For instance, the Institute of Precision Mechanics and Computing Techniques was intensively active in designing calculating machines.

However, there are serious deficiencies in the activity of certain branches of the Department of Technical Sciences. The Institute of Machine Studies is duing no work at all on such subjects as design theory of essential machines, the use of new materials in machine building, scientific principles for designing automatic production lines and automatic plants, and problems of machine building technology. Scientific assistance to the great structures of Communism is unsatisfactory.

The Institute of Automatics and Telemechanics is not working on artismatic control in power supply systems, communication and transportation. Wirk on the application of telemechanical principles in the Kuybyshev and Stalingrad hydroelectric power stations is absolutely insufficient.

An excessive number of small subjects in the activity plan of the Mining Institute for 1951 resulted in scattering the efforts and facilities of the institute, and low utilization of the results by industry.

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The Institute of Machanics did not carry out the decision of the Presidium of the Academy of Sciences concerning the development of works on serodynamics and gas dynamics, and is paying little attention to practical utilization of results. Some projects of the institute are of an abstract character.

This Power Engineering Institute did not develor works on heavy-duty electric machines and did not attempt to study possible solutions of boiler construction problems connected with utilization of high-parameter steam. There are no projects on attam and gas turbines or on the development of new improved systems of attam-electric power stations.

These defects in the activity of the Department of Technical Sciences slee characterize its 1952 plan. As a result, a number of projects essential to the national economy was not included, and some were planned on an improperly low scale.

In general, the plan for 1952 includes the problems represented in the 1951 plans; problems in regard to coal, shale, peat, petroleum, pig iron, steel and nonferrous metals, a number of problems in power engineering, radio, the technology of the fabrication of new machines, automatization and telemechanization of industrial processes, computing techniques, the theory of elasticity, the theory of plasticity, stee. As in 1951, essential problems are frequently lost among numerous minor subjects. As a result, for example, works on continuous-operation production lines and automatic plants, and on the mechanization of time-consuming processes, are planned on an insufficient scale, in spite of repeated instructions from the Presidium to increase activity in these fields. The plan also does not embrace to the proper extent such industrial problems as hydraulics, of ministries, specialized institutes, and industrial problems is hydraulics, of ministries, specialized institutes, and industrial enterprises in the discretion of the activity program of the Department of Technical Sciences also had a negative effect on the entire plan of the department.

Russian Editor's Note: At present, the plan of the Department of Technical Sciences is being entirely reworked in the light of the editorial in Pravda, 17 September 1951, and the decree of the Presidium of the Academy of Sciences, dated 28 September 1951,

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